

SEP 27 2006

Application No. 10/776,526
Amendment dated September 27, 2006
After Final Office Action of June 27, 2006

Docket No.: 3624-0154P

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 19 and 22 are now present in this application.

Claims 10-18, 20, 21 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-18, 20, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Onuki et al., U.S. Patent 6,117,023, in view of Higuchi et al., Japanese document 10-192454. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 1-9, 19 and 22 to be allowable. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that claims 10-18, 20, 21 and 23 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the 35 USC 103 rejection has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

In the event the Examiner does not consider this application to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purposes of Appeal. This Amendment should overcome the current grounds of rejection and therefore simplify the issues for Appeal. Nonetheless, it should be unnecessary to proceed to Appeal because the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted

By 

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